

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this Application. No claims have been amended or cancelled. Thus, Claims 1-31 are subject to continued examination.

Obviousness Rejections

Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 15-17 and 25-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paley et al. (US 4,888,229) in view of Rockwell, Jr. (US 6,001,442).

As best understood, Paley provides a continuous fused zone of a width sufficient to capture any loose filaments that might otherwise be free to fall off. Such particles can cause substantial damage in an electronics cleanroom environment. Discontinuous fused patterning would appear to be fundamentally inconsistent with the practices advocated in Paley. The Examiner relies on Rockwell Jr. to suggest the use of a discontinuous fused pattern.

The Federal Circuit has adopted a two-step test for determining whether cited references properly fall within the scope of the art in *In re Deminski*, 796 F.2d 436, 230 USPQ 313 (Fed. Cir. 1986). First, the reference must be “within the field of the inventor’s endeavor.” Second, if the reference is outside that field of endeavor, it must be “reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was involved.” In this case, the reference is neither within the field of the inventor’s endeavor, nor is it reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was involved.

In the instant application, the field of Applicant's endeavor is woven or knitted wiping cloths that meet substantially all of the specifications for use in cleanrooms, particularly those for class 100 cleanrooms and below (see Summary of the Invention). The Rockwell Jr. reference is directed to a hand wiping roll towel for a bathroom. Considerations that relate to particulate contamination standards in a cleanroom environment are greatly different from those of a bathroom. It is respectfully submitted that one seeking to solve the problem of providing wiping cloths with edges that do not generate particulate fracture upon the application of stress would not ignore the teachings of Paley in favor of the teachings in Rockwell, which are used in an environment wherein particulate generation is of no concern. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the Rockwell Jr. reference is non-analogous art and therefore continued rejection based on Rockwell Jr. should not be maintained.

In addition to the above argument, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest all elements of the invention as set forth in Claims 15 and 29 (and thus all claims depending therefrom). Each of these claims recites a wiper wherein at least one perimeter edge comprises a folded double layer border and a fused attachment zone disposed inboard of the folded double layer border. This double layer border provides an edge structure that is not substantially susceptible to fiber fracture upon stretching and is thus believed to promote the integrity of the edges during stretching thereby reducing the generation of particulates (see page 11, lines 11-15). As best understood, neither of the cited references discloses such a folded double layer. Therefore, Applicants

respectfully submit that the cited art does not teach or suggest all limitations of these claims and the obviousness rejection should not be maintained.

Claims 4, 18 and 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paley and Rockwell, Jr. in view of Morin et al. (US 6,189,189).

As regards Claim 4, the rejection relies on the combination of Paley and Rockwell Jr. As noted above, Rockwell Jr. is believed to be non-analogous art. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

As regards Claims 18 and 23-25, each of these claims recites a folded double layer border and a fused attachment zone disposed inboard of the folded double layer border. As noted above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of references does not teach or suggest all limitations of these claims as written and the obviousness rejection should not be maintained.

Claims 5-9 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Paley, Rockwell, Jr. and Morin and in further view of Dean et al. (US 6,139,954).

As regards Claims 5-9, the rejection is based on the combination of Paley and Rockwell Jr. As noted above, Rockwell Jr. is believed to be non-analogous art. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.

As regards Claims 19-22, each of these claims recites a folded double layer border and a fused attachment zone disposed inboard of the folded double layer border. As noted above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of

references does not teach or suggest all limitations of these claims as written and the obviousness rejection should not be maintained.

CONCLUSION

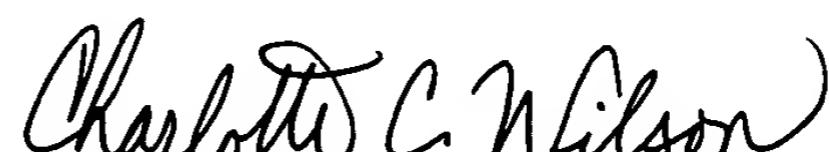
For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment and accompanying Remarks, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned in the hope that any such issue may be promptly and satisfactorily resolved.

To any extent required for acceptance of this paper, an extension of time is hereby requested.

In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers (including extension of time fees), authorization is hereby provided to withdraw such fees from Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Respectfully submitted,


Charlotte C. Wilson
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 45,224

MILLIKEN AND COMPANY
920 Milliken Road, M-495
Spartanburg, SC 29303
Telephone (864) 503-2194
Facsimile (864) 503-1999